

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A communication method comprising the steps of:

communicating via a network virtual personal information having a representation format similar to that of real personal information of a real world; and

converting the virtual personal information into the real personal information based on registered information, in a managing apparatus provided in the network.

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2. An electronic commercial transaction method comprising the step of:

making a commercial transaction in a virtual world on a network, based on virtual personal information received via the network,

said virtual personal information having a representation format similar to that of real personal information of a real world.

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3. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

converting the virtual personal information into the real personal information in a managing apparatus provided in the network.

4. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of:

5 instructing delivery and/or settlement of an item from the managing apparatus depending on the commercial transaction, based on the real personal information.

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5. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

15 seeking confirmation on an approval of the settlement to an individual in the real world who made the commercial transaction, based on the virtual personal information.

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25 6. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

approving log-in to the virtual world; and
approving the commercial transaction in the virtual world.

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35 7. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step of approving the log-in and said step of approving the commercial transaction respectively approve based solely on the virtual personal information.

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8. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said virtual personal information includes at least one of a virtual name, a virtual address in a virtual city
5 within the virtual world, a virtual telephone number, a virtual bank account number of a virtual bank within the virtual city, and a virtual credit card number of a virtual credit card usable in the virtual world.

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9. A managing apparatus comprising:
15 managing means for managing registered information which is used when converting virtual personal information into real personal information of a real world, said virtual personal information having a representation format similar to that of
20 the real personal information; and

converting means for converting the virtual personal information received via a network into corresponding real personal information of the real world, based on the registered information.

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10. The managing apparatus as claimed in
30 claim 9, further comprising:

means for instructing delivery and/or settlement of an item depending on a commercial transaction which is made in a virtual world in which the virtual personal information is used,
35 based on the real personal information.

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11. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 9, further comprising:

means for seeking confirmation on an approval
of a settlement to an individual in the real world
5 who made a commercial transaction in a virtual world
in which the virtual personal information is used,
based on the virtual personal information.

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12. A virtual city space comprising:
a plurality of virtual shops accessible via a
network,

15 a commercial transaction being made between a
first virtual individual and an arbitrary one of the
virtual shops, based on virtual personal information
of the first virtual individual,

20 said virtual personal information having a
representation format similar to that of real
personal information of a real world.

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13. The virtual city space as claimed in
claim 12, further comprising:

a virtual home of a second virtual individual
having a virtual address in the virtual city space,

30 a communication being made between the first
virtual individual and the second virtual individual,
based on the virtual personal information of the
first virtual individual.

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14. The virtual city space as claimed in
claim 13, further comprising:

a virtual station through which the first
virtual individual can move to another virtual city
space.

10 15. The virtual city space as claimed in
claim 12, further comprising:

a virtual station through which the first
virtual individual can move to another virtual city
space.

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